(a) the number of persons died in each State due to starvation during the year 2001-02 and the six months from April 1st, 2002; and

(b) what assistance was given to the families of those who have died due to starvation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No State Government has reported such deaths during the year 2001-02 and in the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

Representation of PIOs in the Rajya Sabha

†3020. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to grant representation in the Rajya Sabha to the Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) staying abroad and who are still citizens of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Threat from Pakistani anti-ballistic missile system

3021. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is likely to acquire anti-ballistic missile system worth 1.5 billion dollars;

(b) if so, to what extent this is likely to affect India's defence preparedness; and

(c) what steps have been taken to face the challenge?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government has seen reports about Pakistan's interest in acquiring anti-ballistic missile systems.

(b) and (c) Government constantly reviews all developments that have a bearing on India's security environment and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard nation's security.

Indian representation in UN arms inspectors in Iraq

3022. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq requested the Government to join the United Nations' Team of arms inspectors for inspecting the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether India has made so far any diplomatic advances in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Immigration laws

3023. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enforce immigration laws strictly in the country;

(b) if so, the details of bottlenecks found in the existing immigration laws;

(c) whether due to ineffective immigration laws Government have been finding greater difficulties in taking action against the persons involved in organised crimes; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?